

MARINE INFORMATION**NIMA TRANSITIONS TO DIGITAL NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS**

The National Imagery and Mapping Agency will soon begin the transition from producing and distributing hardcopy nautical publications to digital format on CD-ROM and/or electronic access through the World Wide Web (WWW). Beginning October 2002, NIMA will implement a phased approach to the preferred method of producing nautical safety data in digital format. Over the next three years (2002-2005), nautical publications produced by NIMA will be announced as new editions in digital form only. These datasets will be more robust, expansive and customer friendly than current printed versions. Customers can expect to have access to data links between publication datasets, video streams, links to other websites, timely up-to-date information and current state of the art graphics, photos and commercial satellite imagery.

Digital nautical publications will be updated using a binary executable called "Publication Data Update (PDU)". PDU updates will be hosted on the Maritime Safety Information Division Navigation Homepage (<http://pollux.nss.nima.mil>). Customers can download PDU updates for any nautical publication at their leisure. All PDU updates will be cumulative ensuring customers will not miss any changes. Complete instructions will be posted at <http://pollux.nss.nima.mil> prior to implementation of this updating process.

Customers requiring paper versions of NIMA products should purchase them through the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) Superintendent of Documents. The NIMA points of contact for this effort are Mr. Randall White, (301)227-3180 and Mr. Adam Veracka (301)227-3173.

NOAA PRINT-ON-DEMAND CHARTS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its partner OceanGrafix, LLC have completed the pilot project for Up-to-Date POD nautical charts. These charts are updated by NOAA each week from the latest NIMA, Coast Guard and Canadian Notice to Mariners and all unpublished safety items known to NOAA. OceanGrafix prints charts from these up-to-date digital files. Chart New Editions are available as POD charts 5-8 weeks before their release as a traditional NOAA chart. The box in the lower left corner of each POD chart states the "Additional Corrections Through" to which that chart is updated beyond the corrections done at new edition release time. These POD charts are available through POD chart agents at <http://OceanGrafix.com/>, 1-877-56CHART, susanw@oceangrafix.com, or contact NOAA at <http://NauticalCharts.gov>.

NOAA CHART NEW EDITION DATING SCHEME

National Ocean Service (NOS) nautical charts have traditionally shown a date in the lower left corner of the chart. That date represented the date through which corrections had been made to the new edition of the chart from the Notice to Mariners, published weekly by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) and the Local Notice to Mariners issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard District.

The weekly Notice to Mariners, published by NIMA, is available on the Internet, weeks before the issue date of that publication. This has resulted in a significant difference in the publication dates of the latest Notice to Mariners data and the latest Local Notice to Mariners data available when a new edition of a chart is prepared for printing.

Due to this difference, NOS has established a policy in which the edition date of a chart will consist of only the month and year of that chart's printing. Separate dates will be listed nearby, indicating the date of the latest NIMA weekly Notice to Mariners corrections and the date of the latest USCG Local Notice to Mariners corrections.

Chart users are reminded, that NOS print-on-demand charts are custom printed when ordered by authorized chart agents and include all of the latest Notice to Mariners and Local Notice to Mariners corrections issued since the last new edition was published. Print-on-demand charts also indicate separate dates for the latest Notice to Mariners and Local Notice to Mariners affecting that updated product.